



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Patent Application of: )  
ROY )  
Serial No. 10/780,258 ) Examiner: J. Contee  
Filing Date: February 17, 2004 )  
Confirmation No. 3428 ) Art Unit: 2617  
For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD OF** )  
**RETRIEVING ELECTRONIC MAIL** )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, **SHAIBAL ROY**, do hereby declare:

1. I am the inventor of claims 1-37 of U.S. patent application serial no. 10/780,258, filed February 17, 2004 as identified above, and the subject matter described and claimed therein.

2. Prior to November 19, 2003, the effective date of cited U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0152449 to Koshihara, I had conceived and reduced to practice the invention that is described and claimed in the above-identified patent application while working in the United States in the Issaquah, Washington facility of TeamOn Systems, Inc., as a part of Research in Motion Limited.

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3. I conceived and reduced to practice a communication system that includes a mobile device having a mail user agent. A mobile office platform is operative with the mail user agent and accesses one or more electronic mailboxes of the mail user agent using at least one protocol specific connector. The mobile office platform is operative for providing only the n-most recent mail headers of electronic messages to the mail user agent in at least one of a default order of mail headers provided by the electronic mail protocol used for accessing an electronic mailbox and in an order based on associative information about the electronic mail provider and/or electronic mailbox to be accessed.

4. Some aspects of the invention include the message header as a unique identifier (UID) and a database associated with the mobile office platform and containing records of associative information for electronic mail providers and/or electronic mailboxes to be accessed. This associative information can be the name of the electronic mail protocol and the name of the electronic mail server. This name can be applicable to a specific electronic mail protocol and a domain name of an internet service provider used for accessing electronic mailboxes.

5. The mobile office platform can download an entire message list for one or more electronic mailboxes, sort the message headers, and extract only the n-most recent mail messages for delivery to a mail user agent that requests electronic mail. The mail user agent can be operative for accessing the mobile office platform using a POP, IMAP or web mail protocol. The plurality of protocol-specific connectors

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can be a POP connector, an IMAP connector, or connector for accessing mail from an exchange server.

6. I worked closely with T-Mobile under confidentiality before November 19, 2003, and reduced to practice the invention. I demonstrated the invention to T-Mobile under confidentiality in the state of Washington before November 19, 2003. After demonstrating the invention to T-Mobile, I worked closely with the in-house patent department at Research in Motion Limited, and more particularly, George Babu as an in-house patent agent. I disclosed my invention to Mr. Babu before November 19, 2003.

7. Enclosed is Exhibit 1 that shows on page 1 an electronic mail from Mr. George Babu to the attorneys in charge of preparing the patent application. That Exhibits sets forth various disclosures, and more particularly, the disclosure that is disclosed and claimed in the above-identified patent application and entitled the electronic mail as, "N-Most Recent in Wireless Mail Gateway" as 842-ID. The other subjects have been redacted for the other two ID references that concerned other inventions. Pages 2 and 3 of Exhibit 1 show some of the notes taken during the interview between Mr. Babu and me. The email forwarding this disclosure to the attorneys is dated November 17, 2003, two days before the effective November 19, 2003 date of Koshihara.

8. That technical description on pages 2 and 3 of Exhibit 1 shows the basic subject matter that had been conceived and reduced to practice and demonstrated to T-Mobile. Other details of the invention I conceived and

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reduced to practice before November 19, 2003 are set forth in the above-identified patent application.

9. I hereby declare that all statements made herein are of my own knowledge and are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements, and the like so made, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title XVIII of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

10/30/2006  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Shaibal Roy  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shaibal ROY

S.R.  
10/30

To: barbara Goree <bgoree@addmg.com>  
 Subject: Fwd: Additional TeamOn Disclosures

Subject: Additional TeamOn Disclosures  
 Date: Mon, 17 Nov 2003 16:43:59 -0500  
 X-MS-Has-Attach: yes  
 X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:  
 Thread-Topic: Additional TeamOn Disclosures  
 Thread-Index: AcOtU+jlEclbNclOTd6/60vbwp2qgA==  
 From: "George Babu" <gbabu@rim.net>  
 To: "Christopher F. Regan (E-mail)" <cregan@addmg.com>  
 Cc: "John Woodson (E-mail)" <jwoodson@addmg.com>,  
 "Richard Warther (E-mail)" <rwarther@addmg.com>  
 X-OriginalArrivalTime: 17 Nov 2003 21:44:00.0504 (UTC) FILETIME=[E954B780:01C3AD53]

Hi Chris,

My apologies for the delay, but here are 3 additional disclosures. Three of the documents in the zip file are summaries of my interviews with the inventors (Shaibal Roy and Murthy). The fourth document is Murthy's draft of his disclosure.

The RIM reference Numbers for these are:

0839-ID ~~SUBJECT REDACTED~~  
 0842-ID N-Most recent in wireless mail gateway  
 0843-ID ~~SUBJECT REDACTED~~

Please confirm inventorship and release dates as listed in the spreadsheet I last sent. Additionally, please advise when you expect to have a first draft ready. Given that I just sent out the disclosures, the Nov deadline is probably unreasonable.

There are two remaining disclosures related to TeamOn products under development.

Regards  
 George Babu  
 Patent Agent Trainee

(519) 888 7465 x2489  
 Research In Motion ([www.rim.com](http://www.rim.com))

NOTE: The preceding e-mail message (including any attachments) contains information that may be confidential, be protected by the attorney-client or other applicable privileges, or constitute non-public information. It is intended to be conveyed only to the designated recipient(s). If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender by replying to this message and then delete it from your system. Use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this message by unintended recipients is not authorized and may be unlawful.

<<TeamOn Disclosures.zip>>

**Ex. 1, Pg. 1**

**Background:** In the TeamOn system, a Mail User Agent (MUA)<sup>1</sup>, access one or more of their mailboxes through the Mobile Office Platform (MOP). MOP acts as a window onto the users mailboxes. The users mailboxes maybe accessed using one of a plurality of protocols such as POP3, IMAP, webmail, or a proprietary protocol. Additionally, the MUA may access the MOP in one of a variety of protocols. In one embodiment, the MOP is accessed using the POP3 protocol. However, IMAP or webmail may also be used.

The MOP has a plurality of protocol specific connectors to access mailboxes. One connector could be a POP3 connector for accessing POP3 mailboxes, while another could be an IMAP connector for access IMAP mailboxes, and another could be a connector to access mail from an Exchange server.

**Problem:** The MUA usually resides on a mobile device, which has limited storage capacity and limited transmission bandwidth. Some users may have mailboxes that have a large number of email messages. It is not uncommon for a user to have thousands of emails in the mailbox. The POP3 protocol used by MUAs isn't intelligent enough to only request a subset of mail from the MOP. Instead, it retrieves the entire list of message headers before performing any operation.

This causes a number of problems:

- 1) The MUA doesn't have enough space to hold the message list
- 2) New mail check takes forever
  - a. Any function that requires the MUA to look at the message list is subject to delays
  - b. If a message header is 500B, and the user has 5000 email messages in the inbox, then on every check of new mail, the MUA has to retrieve 500KB of information!
- 3) Drain on battery life as a result of downloading entire message list
- 4) Airtime charges increase due to having to download the message list

The problem arises as a result of having to translate from one mail protocol to another. Not all protocols support retrieval of subsets of mail headers in a message list. Thus, any service that allows a MUA transparent access to mailboxes implemented in a plurality of protocols will run into the problem of having to retrieve or store a large number of message headers for users that have a large number of email messages.

If only protocols that allow retrieval of subsets of mail headers from message were used, then some of the problems would be eliminated. For instance, with IMAP, Problems 2-4 wouldn't occur, as IMAP would only request a subset of the message list. Problem 1 would still occur, as the MUA would still store the entire message list on the device.

**Solution:** The MOP only provides the n-most recent mail headers to the device. This effectively translates the mailbox size from a large mailbox to a small mailbox that will easily fit on the device and be easily manipulated given the limited connection bandwidth.

One way in which this could be done is to allow the MOP to download the entire message list, sort it as necessary, extract the n-most recent mail headers and send them to the device.

Alternatively, the mail connector itself would only retrieve the n-most recent items from the source mailbox.

Some protocols don't impose a default message list order, and this has to be addressed as well. For instance, POP3 doesn't have a requirement for sending UIDs in any particular order. Thus, some POP3 implementations sort by most recent first, some sort by most recent last, and some don't sort. Thus, the system has to recognize this and sort accordingly before extracting n-most

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<sup>1</sup> MUA could be a phone, a Blackberry, a wireless PDA, etc.

recent items. One way to do this is to look at the last item, and the second last item, compare the time-stamps and then decided what sort order is implemented. The worst-case scenario is that the list isn't sorted at all, and this is when the server could download the entire list, sort the list and then extract the n-most recent items.

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Ex. 1, Pg. 3

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